



COUNTY OF BERGEN

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION • DIVISION OF CULTURAL AND HISTORIC AFFAIRS

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Kathleen A. Donovan
County Executive

Ronald Kistner
Director

May 1, 2013

Debbie Mans
Co-Chair of Passaic River CAG
NY/NJ Baykeeper
52 West Front Street
Keyport, NJ 07735

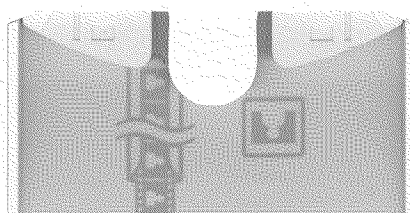
Ms. Mans:

This is in response to your April 11, 2013 to County Executive Kathleen Donovan concerning the restoration of the Passaic River. As the Parks Director for Bergen County, County Executive Donovan and County Administrator Trawinski has requested that I respond to your letter on their behalf.

Your assertion that “no one from Bergen County had been briefed on the FFS” is factually incorrect. In fact, I attended your September 18, 2012 CAG meeting at which Walter Mudgan, EPA, provided a comprehensive briefing on the proposed FFS. I also attended a recent briefing by the EPA in the Rutherford area, during which representatives from the EPA provided a very similar briefing. I would also like to point out that I have been directly involved with the scheduled removal at River Mile 10.9 in Lyndhurst.

Since my appointment to this position in April 2011, I have been following the multiple studies underway along the Passaic River very closely since what happens, or does not happen, directly impacts Bergen County property. I certainly understand the FFS only addressed the lower 8 miles of the Passaic River while providing nothing of value to any contamination for any community north of River Mile 8.

County Executive Donovan’s February 21, 2013 letter to Judith Enck clearly articulates Bergen County’s positions and concerns relative to the restoration of the Passaic River. More importantly, positions and concerns referenced in that letter remain the same. Bergen County has acted and will continue to act in the best interest of the six (6) Bergen County municipalities within the study area. For your reference, attached you will find County Executive Donovan’s February 21, 2013 letter to Judith Enck.



Your letter states that the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) "declined" to submit its alternative remedy to the EPA nearly two years ago. The County's understanding is that neither Region 2 nor the CPG have produced and shared with the public the results of a complete and peer-reviewed model results to demonstrate efficiency of a remedy for the Passaic River. The modeling results that Region 2 has shown to the public since last September are the results of runs conducted prior to December 2012 National Remedy Review Board and the model peer review conducted in February and March of this year.

The County also understands that Region 2 has declined to share the NRRB or peer review comments with the CAG, CPG or the public. How can the CPG be expected to complete its model and provide model results to credibly support its alternative remedy as both the CAG and Region 2 have insisted upon – let alone two years ago if both Region 2's and CPG's models are incomplete?

To set the record straight, the CPG has not provided any funding for any projects on Bergen County property. To clarify your confusion, the renovations you see underway at Bergen County's Riverside Park North are part of a \$2-3 million capital improvement Bergen County advanced by County Executive Donovan and approved by the Bergen County Freeholders in February 2012.

Bergen County is not operating in a vacuum or picking sides. Bergen County and I would suggest to you all the communities in the study area north of River Mile 8, are keenly focused on advancing meaningful and impactful action in the river.

Thank you for taking the time to write County Executive Donovan to express your concerns and providing the opportunity to clarify any misconception the CAG may have. It would be my pleasure to meet with you, the CAG and/or the EPA at your convenience should you believe such a meeting would be beneficial.

Sincerely,



Ronald Kistner
Parks Director

CC: Kathleen A. Donovan, County Executive
Ed Trawinski, County Administrator
Michelle Dilorgi, Clerk to the Board of Chosen Freeholders

